

With nearly 11 million members and constituents,

The HSUS has passionate supporters throughout the nation and the world, and their conviction makes us a powerful force for reform. Feelings run pretty strong about The HSUS the other way, too: We're not real popular among animal fighters, factory farmers, puppy millers, seal clubbers, and other groups or industries that make a business of cruelty or attempt to explain it away. They're very upset with our campaigns, initiatives, and increasing political success—and we intend to keep it that way.

More than 50 years ago, the founders of The HSUS vowed to combat cruelties of a national scale, like the forms of abuse mentioned above. And as we've grown through these five decades, and combined our operations with like-minded groups to eliminate waste and inefficient use of resources, we are more of a threat than ever to the status quo.

Local humane organizations have never had the resources or the reach to fight these entrenched forms of abuse, but at The HSUS we tackle the biggest problems. And now, in an era of global commerce and transport, we've had to expand our reach ever further in order to combat cruelties that know no national boundaries.

But with our aggressive campaigning—which you as members rightly expect of us—there comes a backlash. Some economic interests try to denigrate The HSUS's good name and spread false information about our work.

One canard is that at The HSUS we do not care for animals, and instead are just a big, powerful political operation. What they're really saying is that they'd prefer that we confined ourselves to local rescue efforts and not address the causes of cruelty in any systematic way with permanent legal reforms. In fact, we do both through The HSUS—local rescue and state and national reform—and in both cases the mission is the same: to help the victims of cruelty to animals.

I wish I could take our opponents on a firsthand tour of our hands-on programs that save so many lives. The first stop would be our wildlife care centers in the East and West, where we take in, nurse to health, and return to their native habitats thousands of injured wild animals.

Then, perhaps, I'd take them to our Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Texas—the nation's largest animal care center—where we provide permanent sanctuary to nearly 1,300 animals who are rescues from roadside zoos and circuses, exotic animal dealers, horse slaughter plants, laboratories, canned hunts, and other industries. From there, I'd escort them around our Duchess Sanctuary in Oregon, where horses formerly used to produce an estrogen replacement drug in factory farm conditions live out the remainder of their lives in a beautiful and wide open and safe setting.

If our critics are prepared to rough it, I'd take them to our clinics in rural areas, where our teams of veterinarians vaccinate, spay or neuter, and otherwise attend to thousands of animals at no cost in communities where these services are not available or are too expensive.

And if they're up for some adventure, perhaps I'd take them on some of our Emergency Services deployments. On any given day, our strike teams are raiding a dogfighting operation and saving dogs from the cruelty of the pit. Or they are busting a puppy mill and taking away the dogs so they can be placed in good homes. Or they're rescuing animals from floods, forest fires, hurricanes, or other natural calamities.

Maybe I'd take them to an animal shelter, where our evaluation teams provide the road map for operating the facility in the most professional and humane manner.

In all, The HSUS provides a remarkable range of services for animals by passing laws and enforcing them and doing other policy work; working with corporations to promote more humane practices; educating the public about the threats animals face; and doing lifesaving hands-on work.

No other group in the world of animal protection has such a vast portfolio—helping animals in need while also striking at the root causes of problems that put animals in danger. We could not do any of this work without your support, and we could not be more grateful for your sacrifice and generosity and confidence in us.



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